

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097541
ORIGIN EA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-05
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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NAHA
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0130
COMUS/J YOKO JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097541

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MARR, CH, JA

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON SENKAKUS

REF: (A) TOKYO 06549 (B) STATE 096877

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. EMBASSY COUNSELOR FUJII CALLED ON COUNTRY DIRECTOR
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PLATT APRIL 15 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE SAME REQUEST
AS TAMBA (REFTEL A).

2. PLATT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE.

A. USG POSITION ON SENKAKUS DISPUTE HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE
1972.

B. PRESS GUIDANCE ON BASIC USG POSITION (ALL OF PARA 2 REFTTEL B) HAD BEEN WORKED OUT CAREFULLY AT HIGH LEVEL OF USG WHEN MATTER LAST AROSE IN 1972, WAS SUBJECT OF CONSULTATION WITH GOJ, AND WAS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD IN JAPAN AND THE US.

C. GUIDANCE ON US BOMBING RANGES IN SENKAKUS (PARA 1 REFTTEL B) HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS

SOLELY. THE GUIDANCE ON USG BASIC POSITION (PARA 2 REFTTEL B) WAS TO BE USED ONLY IF PRESSED. THE US APPRECIATED THE DELICACY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF OFFICIAL SCRUTINY PAID THE ISSUE IN JAPAN. WE HAD NO DESIRE TO REITERATE OUR ENTIRE POSITION AND WOULD PREFER TO SAY NOTHING AT ALL OR TO STOP AFTER THE GUIDANCE RELATING TO US BOMBING RANGES.

D. IF ASKED, HOWEVER, WE WOULD RESPOND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN OUR POSITION AS STATED IN 1972. IF PRESSED FURTHER, HOWEVER, USG WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SUPPLY IN ITS ENTIRETY THE LANGUAGE OF OUR POSITION AT THAT TIME (PARA 2 REFTTEL B).

3. FUJII RESPONDED THAT GOJ BELIEVED MATTER SHOULD BE VIEWED IN DIFFERENT CONTEXT THAN THAT OF OKINAWA
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REVERSION. "SITUATION MIGHT BE SO SERIOUS AS TO REQUIRE GOJ TO ASK USG FOR NEW FORMULATION", HE ADDED. HE NOTED THAT SENKAKUS ISSUE VERY VOLATILE POLITICALLY. HE HOPED THAT US WOULD VIEW ISSUE IN OVERALL CONTEXT OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS AND WOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING THAT WOULD ENGENDER DOUBT ABOUT US POSITION. FUJII CLOSED BY STATING THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT US VIEWS TO TOKYO AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD MAKE NO STATEMENT ON BASIC POSITION UNTIL GOJ HAD HAD CHANCE TO CONSULT AGAIN.

4. PLATT RESPONDED BY REITERATING THAT USG WOULD PREFER TO SAY NOTHING. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT ENVISAGE SITUATION WHERE USG WOULD HAVE TO MAKE STATEMENT BEFORE COB MONDAY JAPAN TIME. USG WOULD DO ITS BEST TO AVOID MAKING STATEMENT ON BASIC POSITION UNTIL WE HAD HEARD FURTHER FROM GOJ.

5. BASED ON ABOVE, FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR EMBASSY HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE:

A. IF ACTIVELY QUERIED ABOUT BOMBING RANGES EMBASSY SHOULD USE GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT ALREADY WORKED OUT

WITH TAMBA (PARA 1 REFTTEL B WITHOUT "DE FACTO").

B. IF PRESSED AS TO BASIC USG POSITION ON SENKAKUS
DISPUTE, EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO
CHANGE IN USG POSITION SINCE IT LAST AROSE.

C. IF ASKED FOR DETAILS OF POSITION, EMBASSY SHOULD
REFER QUERY TO DEPARTMENT.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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